

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06696 01 OF 02 210927Z

15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SCCT-02

AID-20 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 210644Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5746

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 6696

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CY

SUBJECT: NBC INTERVIEW WITH PM ECEVIT

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ABC TV INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT
TAPED AUGUST 19 (SEE ANKARA 6681), PM GAVE INTERVIEW TO NBC LIZ
TROTTER. INTERVIEW WAS TAPED BEFORE RPT BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
PRESS CONFERENCE OF SAME DATE. PARTS OF INTERVIEW MAY ALREADY HAVE
BEEN BROADCAST IN US, BUT BELIEVE ADDRESSEES WOULD LIKE TO READ
IT IN ITS ENTIRETY. ADDRESSEES PLEASE PROTECT CONTENTS FROM OTHER
COMPETING NEWS AGENCIES.

"Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE WHILE AGO THAT
YOU RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN
NICOSIA. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY AND POLITICALLY
FOR TURKEY?

"A. I THINK IT'S VERY REGRETTABLE BOTH FROM A POLITICAL AND
HUMAN POINT OF VIEW. I DON'T THINK YOU CAN REACH ANYWHERE BY
TERRORISM AND IT WAS PARTICULARLY UNFAIR OF THE GREEKS TO TRY TO TAKE
REVENGE FOR THEIR MISTAKES ON THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. I THINK
AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN AS UNBIASED AND AS CONSTRUCTIVE
AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT WASN'T APPRECIATED BY THE GREEKS. OUR PEOPLE
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 06696 01 OF 02 210927Z

HAVE BEEN SUFFERING THAT KIND OF TERRORISM FOR ABOUT TWO DECADES.
ONLY IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE RED CROSS

REPORTED THE MASSACRING OF CIVILIANS IN PAPHOS, TURKISH CIVILIANS. THIRTY TO FORTY BULLETS WERE FOUND IN THE BODY OF A TWO-YEAR OLD CHILD AS REPORTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND A TURKISH CYPRIOT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND THE WHOLE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE FOUND BURNED TO DEATH IN A VILLAGE NEAR KYRENIA RECENTLY. I HOPE THAT THIS UNFORTUNATE EVENT OF TODAY WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF A POSITIVE SHOCK ON GREEK TERRORISTS AND THEY WILL REALIZE THAT THEY CAN'T GET ANYWHERE EXCEPT THROUGH PEACEFUL METHODS AND NEGOTIATIONS.

"Q. DO YOU FEEL THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TODAY IN NICOSIA TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IS QUITE ILLUSTRATIVE OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG ABOUT THE...?

"A. DEFINITELY, DEFINITELY. YES. YOU SEE THEY WERE NUTURED UNFORTUNATELY WITH SUCH IRREDENTIST IDEAS AND TERRORISTIC METHODS THAT IN RECENT YEARS THEY HAVE BEGUN TO MASSACRE (FIGHT BETWEEN) THEMSELVES, IN THE EVENTS THAT PRECEDED THE SAMPSON COUP, AND IN THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AFTERWARDS. SO I THINK THE TURKISH ACTION HAS NOT ONLY HELPED TO SAVE THE TURKS, BUT THE GREEKS AS WELL, IF THEY REALIZE IT.

"Q. YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT THIS WILL DO ABOUT THE KIND OF BIAS THAT PEOPLE ARE CHARGING?

"A. WELL, I DON'T THINK, AS I SAID, THAT PEOPLE CAN REACH ANYWHERE BY THOSE KINDS OF METHODS. SO I THINK THE GREEKS SHOULD REALIZE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE THAT THEY SHOULD START DISCUSSIONS AGAIN TO TRY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT FOR CYPRUS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. AND ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED PROVES OUR CLAIM THAT THE TURKS AND THE GREEKS ON CYPRUS CAN LIVE IN PEACE ONLY IF THEY ARE SEPARATE, LIVING UNDER THE ROOF OF THE SAME FEDERAL STATE.

"Q. AS YOU KNOW, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MR. SCHLESINGER, YESTERDAY MADE A STATEMENT THAT IS BEING INTERPRETED AS VERY CRITICAL OF TURKEY. HE SAID THAT TURKEY HAS GONE BEYOND WHAT ANY OF ITS FRIENDS OR SYMPATHIZERS ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT. DO YOU INTERPRET THAT AS A RAP ON THE KNUCKLES OF TURKEY AND AS A POSSIBLE SHIFT IN AMERICAN POLICY?

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 06696 01 OF 02 210927Z

"A. I DON' WANT TO COMMENT ON IT. I HAD THE FEELING THAT MR. SCHLESINGER WAS MAKING THESE REMARKS ON THE BASIS OF FALSE REPORTS THAT WERE BEING SPREAD BY THE GREEKS IN CYPRUS WHO HAD BEEN CLAIMING FOR SOME DAYS THE TURKS HAD BEEN VIOLATING THE CEASEFIRE THAT THEY THEMSELVES ANNOUNCED. BUT THE TURKS HAVE REACHED THE LINES THEY HAVE AIMED FOR AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE. THERE IS NO REASON THE TURKISH UNITS SHOULD VIOLATE THE CEASEFIRE AND WHY THEY SHOULD MOVE BEYOND THE LINES THAT WERE SET FOR THEM ALREADY. I FEEL THE GREEKS, BY SPREADING SUCH FALSE RUMORS, HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CAMOUFLAGE THEIR

OWN VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THEIR OWN ACTS OF TERRORISM. AFTER ALL, SO MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA DECLARATION OF THE 30TH OF JULY AND ACCORDING TO THAT STIPULATION THE GREEKS SHOULD HAVE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY THE TURKISH ENCLAVES THEY HAVE OCCUPIED. THE GREEK NATIONAL GUARD SHOULD HAVE WITHDRAWN AND THE TURKS WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN THERE AND MAKE THEIR OWN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. THE GREEKS WERE GOING TO LIBERATE UNDER THAT DECLARATION THE CIVILIAN TURKS THEY HELD THERE AS HOSTAGES BUT THEY HAVEN'T FULFILLED ANY OF THESE OBLIGATIONS AND THEY JUST HAVE BEEN SPREADING RUMORS THAT THE TURKS HAVE BEEN VIOLATING THE CEASEFIRE AND TRYING TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE WHOLE WORLD...OR DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THE WHOLE WORLD...FROM THEIR OWN UNLAWFUL ACTIONS AND ACTS OF TERRORISM.

"Q. DOES THE INCIDENT TODAY INVOLVING THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ...HOW DOES THAT AFFECT YOUR MILITARY POSITION, BY THAT I MEAN DOES IT MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO LAY BACK AND DO NOTHING? OR DOES IT POSSIBLY MAKE YOU ANGRIER AND WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH A FURTHER ADVANCE?

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06696 02 OF 02 210935Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

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----- 004940

R 210644Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5748

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 6696

"A. WELL, YOU SEE WE HAVEN'T ACTED ON EMOTIONS, AS I THINK EVERYBODY HAS NOTICED. BUT...WE WON'T BE ANGRY, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED AND WE HOPE THAT SOMETHING WILL BE DONE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT SO THAT THE TURKS LIVING TSIDE THE AREA

CONTROLLED BY THE TURKISH UNITS WILL FEEL SAFER. OTHERWISE, IF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INSTANCE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, WE SHALL BE FORCED IN SPITE OF OUR SENSE (SIC) TO LOOK FOR OTHER MEANS. BUT WE WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE ANY OTHER MILITARY ACTION. I HOPE THE GREEKS WILL REALIZE THEY ARE CAUSING MORE HARM FOR THEMSELVES THAN TO THE TURKS AT THIS STAGE. IF I MAY ADD ANOTHER REMARK ON MR. SCHLESINGER'S SPEECH, WELL, YOU SEE, WE ARE IN A COMMON DEFENSE SYSTEM AND I'M SURE, LOOKING OBJECTIVELY, THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION KNOWS THE VALUE OF THE TURKISH MILITARY PREPAREDNESS IN THIS AREA, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO PRESS ANYTHING UPON THE UNITED STATES WHEN SUCH INCIDENTS OCCURRED OR FOR INSTANCE WHEN THE CONGRESS AND THE SENATE TOOK DECISIONS ADVISING THEIR ADMINISTRATION TO CUT OFF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, I HAVE ALWAYS MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THESE WOULD NOT CHANGE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES AND OUR MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.

"Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT EVEN IF MILITARY AID WAS CUT OFF TO TURKEY YOU'D STILL MAINTAIN GOOD FRIENDSHIP...

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 06696 02 OF 02 210935Z

"A. WELL, IT WOULD...IT WOULDN'T BE THE PROBLEM OF TURKEY ONLY BUT IT WOULD BE THE COMMON PROBLEM OF THE WHOLE ALLIANCE.

"Q. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS A VERY EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN AND AS A PHILOSOPHER, I MIGHT ADD, WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE NEXT ACT IN THE SCENARIO, GIVEN THE EVENTS THAT HAPPENDED TODAY, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THE AMERICANS.

"A. WELL, WHEN EVERYBODY IS THINKING RATIONALLY, WE CAN MAKE GUESSES ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. IF WE COULD ACT ON THE HYPOTHESIS THAT EVERYBODY IS GOING TO ACT RATIONALLY, I THINK THAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR US TO GATHER AROUND A CONFERENCE TABLE AGAIN AND FOR THESE TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION FOR THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MILITARY STRUCTURE OF NATO.

"Q. ARE YOU COUNTING ALSO ON AMERICA'S SUPPORT OF TURKEY BEING STRENGTHENED BY TODAY'S EVENTS?

"A. WELL, I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY. I THINK THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND OBJECTIVE, BUT THAT DID NOT SUIT THE FEELINGS OF THE (UNINTELLIGIBLE) INTERESTS. THEY HAVE BEEN NURTURED ON THE INTERESTS OF REVIVING THE OLD BYZANTINE EMPIRE, OCCUPYING CONSTANTINOPLE AND OCCUPYING AND ANNEXING CYPRUS. THESE ARE NOT THE IDEAS OF OUR AGE. THIS IS NOT THE AGE OF REVIVING EMPIRES. THIS IS THE AGE OF CRUMBLING EMPIRES. (UNINTELLIGIBLE) HAD SIMILAR IDEAS AS A NATION WHICH HAD A LARGE EMPIRE UNTIL HALF A CENTURY AGO. WHERE WOULD WE HAVE ENDED UP. WE COULDN'T HAVE ESTABLISHED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS. BUT NOW WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL OUR NEIGHBORS EXCEPT ONE, OUR ALLY,

GREECE.
MACOMBER

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